

Employees, Volunteers, Community Partners, and Friends

NEWSLETTER





"Above the Call" Employee Profile: Theodis Clark

Theodis Clark was recently named the BRRC Officer of the Year at DJJ. But, even without that accolade, Clark has already distinguished himself as an exceptional employee who goes well "above the call of duty" for the youth under his care. As such, the Newsletter wanted to take the time to focus our attention on this officer and what makes him so special to those around him, both juveniles and coworkers.

Clark re-started his career at DJJ in May of 2013, after taking a 10-year break from DJJ in service to his country, returning to his mission of helping our youth.

A multi-talented man of integrity and structure, Clark challenges juveniles in his care to think and conduct themselves as young men, and encourages his peers by consistently remaining positive. He has brought many great ideas and activities into Cypress Unit at BRRC.

Since his return, Clark has implemented quiz challenges for the juveniles, where they compete intellectually against one another for small prizes which he funds personally. On his off time, he takes the time to make each juvenile a birthday card to have signed by unit management and staff assigned to the building. He also exemplifies teamwork by making cards for his coworkers to show them support in times when it is most needed, often encouraging the juveniles to sign the cards as well.

When DJJ's activity therapists work hard to keep our juveniles active and moving, Clark supports their mission by taking the initiative to create and implement a weekend activity schedule. By doing so, he is also supporting the agency's PbS initiative to lower idle time among the youths.

Clark has also personally trained several juveniles in maintenance and janitorial skills. Through years of military inspections and expectations, Clark is used to having his living quarters in "Inspection Order" at all times and is passing that knowledge of how it's done to the juveniles in his charge.

Since his return, Clark has received the "Employee of the Month" award twice, and has been recommended numerous times.

In review of his employee record, his time and attendance record is commendable and exemplary. Clark has never called in sick to work.

Mrs. Tamiko Jones, Cypress Unit Manager, calls him "a treasure." "We sincerely appreciate all that he does." Several Cypress Unit staff also praise Clark and thoroughly enjoy working with him.

So if you see him, be sure to thank Officer Theodis Clark for going "above the call" for DJJ!



Horry County Office Lunch Buddies Help Local Students



Pictured above are: Karen Sykes, Shinead James, Courtney Washington, Patrick Copeland.

The Horry County office has just completed its third year of Lunch Buddies at South Conway Elementary School in Conway, with Patrick Copeland, Karen Sykes, Courtney Washington, and Shinead James participating on their Lunch Buddies team.

This school year staff met with the students for lunch twice a month from September through May.

"Our staff really enjoy this program, as well as the kids who are identified to participate," said Horry County DJJ director Miracle Griffith. "We will be continuing with the Lunch Buddies program again next year at South Conway Elementary, with the hopes of branching out to another elementary school in our area."

PbS National Office Names CEC Youth as Winner of Their "Kids Got Talent" Contest

Performance-based Standards (PbS) recently announced the winner of the 2015 PbS "Kids Got Talent" contest: Tyrell J. from DJJ's own Coastal Evaluation Center (CEC)! Tyrell was selected for performing his original song: "Perfect to Me." He will perform his song live at the PbS 20th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Gala in Indianapolis on August 14th.

"All the performances submitted to the PbS Kids Got Talent contest were kids with amazing, creative and moving gifts. Tyrell's song showed his flair for songwriting, acoustic guitar skills and wonderful voice," said PbS Executive Director Kim Godfrey. "I am really looking forward to hearing him perform live and appreciate all the efforts by the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice to make that happen."



The PbS Kids Got Talent contest invited all youths in assessment, correction and detention facilities and community-based programs participating in PbS to submit audio or video recordings of their talents. PbS received 54 inspiring entries that involved 77 youths performing individually or in groups, some original works, from 18 different facilities located in 11 states. The youths danced, sang solos, duets and musicals, performed sports and card tricks, played instrumental guitar pieces, recited poems and painted.

In May, 11 contest finalists were chosen and presented to the PbS Kids Got Talent contest judges, a panel of esteemed juvenile justice and film production experts: Robert Listenbee, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Scott Budnick, President of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition; Marie Williams, Esq. Executive Director of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice; Patrick Griffin, Program Officer for Juvenile Justice in U.S. Programs for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Marc Schindler, Executive



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Director of the Justice Policy Institute and Karen Grau, President of Calamari Productions.

The judges described Tyrell as "very talented" and noted he is a "songwriter in the making." The judges felt his song was "original and beautiful," as well as "catchy and fun to listen to."

"Our first PbS Kids Got Talent contest exceeded all expectations," Godfrey said. "We received submissions from facilities known in the past for taking a very correctional and punitive approach to juvenile justice. It shows how facility and agency leadership is embracing the research and science showing kids do better when they are treated like kids."

PbS is a data-driven improvement model grounded in research that challenges youth correction, detention, assessment and community-based facilities and agencies to treat all youths in custody as one of our own. PbS sets national performance-based standards of excellence to guide facility operations, services and programs to best serve youths, staff and families. The program was launched by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in 1995 and is operated by the PbS Learning Institute.

DJJ Receives "Gold Star" Award for Smoke-Free Campus Change



DJJ was recently recognized with a "Gold Star" award from the South Carolina Hospital Association's (SCHA) Working Well initiative and Prevention Partners. The award was given in recognition of the agency's new tobacco-free campus policy (which bans all tobacco products from DJJ campuses) and smoking cessation program.

"Gold Star" awards are presented to organizations that achieve the highest standard of excellence in providing employees with tobacco cessation resources and creating a comprehensive 100% tobacco-free environment.

"We are honored with this recognition of our tobaccofree campuses policy at DJJ,"

"We wanted to make DJJ a healthier place to be," said Director Murray in response to the honor. "And though that is enough of a reward in itself, it's certainly a true honor to also receive this Gold Star Award for our efforts."

The date of the actual award presentation has not yet been finalized.

Prevention Partners is working with SCHA's Working Well initiative to engage corporate leaders and staff to enhance and sustain employee wellness efforts. These efforts are generously funded through the Healthy South Carolina Initiative.

Working Well is a statewide strategy to improve workplace wellness policies, systems and environments around tobacco cessation, healthy nutrition and increased physical activity so the healthy choice is the easy choice for all employees across South Carolina.

The nonprofit Prevention Partners builds healthier communities through a suite of products that guide schools, workplaces, hospitals and clinics and addresses the leading causes of preventable disease: tobacco use, poor nutrition, physical inactivity and obesity.

Aiken County DJJ Participates in Reducing Underage Drinking Event



Pictured are (left to right) Aiken County's community specialist Sarah Offenbacker and administrative assistant Reagan Pender.

Aiken County middle and high school students and their parents gathered on Thursday, May 28th

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evening at the H. Odell Weeks Activities Center to learn about underage drinking. The event, titled "Let's Talk About It: How to Reduce Underage Drinking," was put on by the Aiken Center for Alcohol and other Drug Services. The goal, said Aiken Center prevention specialist Alexis Williams, was to create a low-pressure environment for students and their parents to discuss underage drinking and its consequences.

"It's just starting the conversation, and sometimes that's all you really have to do," said Williams, citing a 2009 report by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health that states youths who know their parents disapprove of substance use, and who report that their parents are more involved in their day-to-day activities, are less likely to use alcohol or other drugs.

The event began with a resource and information fair with several booths/venders, to include the Aiken County DJJ office. The latter half of event included presentations from drug and alcohol abuse specialists. The presentations were informal, with speakers allowing time at the end for questions and discussion. The event was capped with a presentation by DJJ's "The Insiders," who explained how bad choices they made early on in life led them to be locked up.

Remembering ISO Angela Evans



On June 10th, DJJ lost a member of our family when Intensive Supervision Officer (ISO) Angela Evans was tragically killed in an automobile accident. At the time of the accident she was returning from doing

what she loved – visiting some of her DJJ kids in placement at Camp Bennettsville.

In remembering Angela, Bamberg/Barnwell County director Edward Golden said that she was his rock and a model employee who others in the office tried to emulate. "She loved her community and made my job easy," he said. "She was a passionate person and a great role model for youth in the community and with everyone she served."

Angela began her state service in law enforcement in 1998 and joined DJJ in March of 2006 as an administrative specialist. In August of 2007 she applied for and was selected to be an ISO for the Bamberg and Barnwell county offices. "This is such a devastating loss for the Bamberg/Barnwell DJJ county offices, as well as for our division and the agency," said Community Services Deputy Director Angie Rita.

Edward fondly recalls Angela's motto: "Don't let your past define your future" and said that she continues to inspire those who knew her, even in her passing. "She will be missed but never forgotten, and will always be a part of the Bamberg/Barnwell DJJ family."

A Published Librarian

One of Educational Services' own, Susan C. McNair, who serves as librarian at Birchwood School, was recently published in the bi-monthly magazine *Library Media Connection*. Her article "What's in a Name?" chronicled the personal experience, history, and titles associated with being a "librarian" (though they're modernly referred to as "media specialists" or "teacher-librarians").

Her profession, among many, has experienced the impact of the modern world and the age of information; however, she maintains that though a teacher at heart, she is indeed a librarian, a lover of books and reading, and the resource go-to person for anyone looking for information.

The article concludes "...If we were to continuously change the name of the rose and know it by multiple names, it will still smell as sweet, but people may not recognize it."

She is to be congratulated for her accomplishment in being published. For those who know Susan, by whatever name, she exudes the heart of a librarian;

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for those who have yet to meet her, you would certainly recognize her – a librarian.

Colleton DJJ Office Hosts G.R.E.A.T Basketball Camp

Recently the DJJ Colleton County Office, Carolina Cagers Basketball, Colleton Middle School, and the South Carolina State University 1890 Extension Service hosted a collaborative event called the "G.R.E.A.T. Ballers" camp in Walterboro.

Held over four afternoons the third week of June at the Colleton Middle School Gymnasium, the camp was free and open to ages 8 to 13. Camp instructors taught participants how to avoid gang membership by developing positive associations through basketball skills training.

"The participants really enjoyed the camp and learned how to avoid gang membership," said Wayne Bennett, Colleton County DJJ director. "We wanted the participants to learn respect for members of the community."

Sponsors for the camp were Koger's Mortuary and Southern Style Barber Shop and there are plans to make this an annual event.

SCCA Officer's Appreciation Luncheon Recognizes DJJ Officers of the Year



Pictured are (left to right) Theodis Clark, Sharnae Warren, Najia Bartee, Shiffon Rhinehart, Tyrone Deloach

On May 13, 2015, the South Carolina Correctional Association (SCCA) held its Annual Officer's Appreciation luncheon at the South Carolina Department of Corrections Training and Staff Development Academy.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Director of Parole, Probation, and Pardon Services (and DJJ alumnus) Jerry Adger. His message, "I CARE" was inspiring and encouraging—referencing an acronym

for Integrity, Commitment, Attitude, Resilient, and Enthusiasm.

Those DJJ officers recognized in the ceremony as going above and beyond were:

Upstate Evaluation Center Officer of the Year- **Najia Bartee**

Broad River Road Complex Officer of the Year-Theodis Clark

Coastal Evaluation Center Officer of the Year-**Sharnae Warren**

DJJ Police Officer of the Year - Shiffon Rhinehart

DJJ Officer of the Year - Tyrone Deloach

Jasper County DJJ Hosts Domestic Violence Council



The JCDVCC committee are pictured (left to right): Cathy Morgan, DJJ Jasper County administrative specialist Pamela McNair, Theresa Lacey, Anna Zweede, Tamika Bailey, Arthur, Benjamin, and David Hill.

On Wednesday, May 27th the Jasper County DJJ office hosted the Jasper County Domestic Violence Coordination County Council (JCDVCC), of which Citizens of Domestic Abuse (CODA) is a member organization.

The JCDVCC consists of a small but incredibly active and committed group of individuals, including DJJ Jasper County administrative specialist Pamela McNair. And as part of its efforts to increase education and awareness about domestic violence, the JCDVCC recently conducted a training for area professionals at the Palmetto Electric Facility in Hardeeville.

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A Forest of Trees! ("Made in The DJJ")



For the National Conference of State Legislators, held in Charleston in June, a group of DJJ juveniles at BRRC produced a true forest of our own **Made in the DJJ** palmetto tree statuettes for guests at the event.

The **Made in the DJJ** trees are the same ones available for purchase (in wooden and metal form) at DJJ's Store of Hope on Broad River Road. So stop by today and own your own!

Oconee DJJ Office Partners With Camp Ghigau



The Oconee DJJ office is partnering with Camp Ghigau on several projects this year.

Juvenile probationers, supervised by community specialist Andy McKinney and county director Kirsten Abderhalden, have been helping renovate the camp by painting walls and scrubbing floors.

In return, Ghigau residents at the camp built a storage shed for the DJJ Community Garden just outside of the DJJ office in Walhalla. Part of the garden will be dedicated to victims of juvenile crime, and more projects are planned throughout the summer.

"It's been great for the kids and all of us," said Kirsten. "I'm amazed at how quickly this shed came together and I can't wait to see what grows from this partnership!"

DJJ Workgroup Profile: The Facility Standards Workgroup



Every two months a group of senior DJJ staff meet to update the agency Director on issues, challenges and successes that occur in the facilities and programs in which they work. This multi-disciplinary group is comprised of much of the leadership and many of the senior staff from each facility, division and office.

Originally called the Lawsuit Workgroup, this group started meeting in the mid-1990s during the Department's Class Action Lawsuit, and has been meeting and making improvements to conditions in our secure facilities ever since. This workgroup was originally created to gather and dispense information to lawyers involved with that lawsuit, and while it continues to gather information, its primary function today is to foster communication and cooperation between/among divisions and disciplines. The group was renamed the Facilities Standards Workgroup (FSW) because its purpose, along with a related group, the PbS "Core" Group, is to help provide a forum for staff and the Director to meet and discuss ways to maintain positive standards of operation and systems of care for the employees and the juveniles in all DJJ facilities.

The transition between administrations over the years has been seamless and each Director who has co-chaired these meetings has quickly gained knowledge and appreciation for all that staff do to

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help keep youth safe in all of the department's secure facilities. Former Directors William Byars, Jr., Margaret Barber, and now current Director Sylvia Murray all have spoken highly of the work performed by the members of this workgroup, and about the important role that this group has played in aiding their knowledge and appreciation of the rehabilitative and treatment services and operational issues that exist within the department's institutions and programs.

Likewise, the staff who attend this bi-monthly meeting find participation beneficial because they receive information from throughout the agency and are afforded the opportunity to bring up issues and to get them addressed, and to discuss any issues and/or concerns they may have, directly with the agency Director, who co-chairs the meetings, and with many of her Deputy/Associate Deputy Directors. Words such as "informative," "productive," and "educational" have been used by members of this group to describe these meetings.

The Facilities Standards Workgroup fulfilled a vital purpose during DJJ's lawsuit era, and continues today to serve an important role in keeping communication and cooperation flowing and functioning throughout DJJ.

CEC Honors the Memory of Longtime Volunteer, "Mr. Bob" Hammond



CEC teacher's Tony Martin and Barbara Osborn at the flagpole

The Coastal Evaluation Center has honored the memory of volunteer Bob Hammond by placing a new flag pole and two flags on the campus.

"Mr. Bob" was a longtime financial supporter of the facility and the school and served many years as a volunteer. He is best known for the catered BBQ lunches he provided for youth and staff. Several times a year the juveniles and staff were treated to a feast of pulled pork and the fixings as a means of showing CEC juveniles the concern people in the community have for their future.

"Mr. Bob" also provided funds to support the education department's STAR program and various academic needs—such as classroom novel sets and classroom atlases. He was also a regular guest speaker to students in class, where he shared his personal story and offered advice on how to rise above life's challenges.

During the month of June, the Coastal Evaluation Center School honored Bob Hammond's memory by teaching flag etiquette and learning about our country's flag. In social studies and English classes students studied the history of our flag, the art of Jasper Johns, and a South Carolina artist known for his works honoring the flag. Students created art work in the style of Jasper Johns and displayed the work throughout the facility.

In addition to the above activities, the CEC School hosted various guest speakers, including Jim Young, a human resource director for the SC state Ports Authority, Master Chief Jeff Niece of the United States Navy, and Walter Jones, a 25 year veteran of the US Army. Mr. Jones spoke to students on the topic "Learn it now, or learn it later."

CEC students are responsible for raising and lowering the flag each day and are taught the proper techniques for doing this. The flags and the flag pole are a gift from director Sylvia Murray as an appreciation for the volunteer service that Mr. Hammond provided to DJJ for over 11 years.

Kershaw County Celebrates JRT Program

On June 23rd Kershaw County School District sponsored an event to celebrate the success of their Job Readiness Training Program (JRT). Over 150 people including parents, students, and staff from the summer, fall, and spring JRT sessions participated in the event. Brooks Harper, author of two best-selling books for teens, "Seven Skills to Make Mill\$" and "Why Should I Hire You", was the guest speaker at the event. Brooks also donated both books for students in the program.

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The Kershaw County School District JRT program, sponsored by DJJ, is an employability training initiative that provides job training for youth ages 14-17 and work experience at employers in the Camden and Lugoff community. As interns, teens learn job skills at government agencies, day care centers, retail stores, restaurants, beauty and barber shops, as well as at the Boys and Girls Club and Habitat for Humanity. Students complete classroom training using the nationally acclaimed Tackling the Tough Skills curriculum, which teaches students the work and life skills they'll need before reporting to the job site. Many students have received part-time employment as a result of completing the program. The Camden community has embraced and supported JRT, including a local bank whose representatives spoke with the JRT students on finances and provided each with funds to open savings accounts.

DJJ Kershaw County director April McFadden continues to offer support by referring DJJ youth to the program and has provided classroom instruction on developing interviewing skills.

"We are proud to say the JRT program has brought parents, educators, community partners, and DJJ together to help meet the needs of youth in the Camden and Lugoff Community," said DJJ prevention and intervention specialist Vallorie Robinson.

Cherokee County DJJ Staff, Youth Give Back to Troops



The Cherokee County DJJ office recently completed a community service project to collect personal hygiene items to be sent to troops overseas.

"Ten DJJ youth and four DJJ staff participated in the event – I think they did a great job!" said Cherokee County DJJ Director Brandi Bright.

The collected items were delivered to the local armory to be shipped out to the troops.





June Rehabilitative Services graduates (left to right): Michael Braddy, Tiffany Charles, Carol Ebersole, Tearrain Fullmor, Kiara Henderson, Thomas Randolph, Bernard Salley, Jokeliah Utsey-Williams

2015 DJJ Employee
Bonus Recipients
(To Date)

SHANNON STEVENS
THEODIS CLARK
ROBERT JONES
ANGELA FLOWERS
ASHLEY NICOLE PINCKNEY
WILLIE LUCAS
DAVID FELLOWS
JAMES JACKSON
TERRIKA EISON
CATHERINE BROWN
BRANDY JEFFCOAT
BARBARA OSBURN

Congratulations!

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The Governor's Public Servant Appreciation Luncheon participants from DJJ, to date, have included Felicia Berry, Mark Capron, Hannah Castellanos, Mushell Delafield, Max Dorsey, Angela Flowers, Cynthia Ford, Kimberly Smith Gordon, Lisa Harley, Harolyn Joseph, Dru Kennedy, Naija Kennedy, Edgar Riberdy, Rose Mary Richardson, Anthony Roundtree, Leng Soung, Beverly Springs, and Anna Stoner.

Shawn Burroughs has been named the new agency Human Resources Director.

Carlita Cheek has been selected as the new Regional Classification Coordinator Supervisor for the evaluation centers.

Crayman Harvey has been appointed as the new facility administrator for the Juvenile Detention Center.

Amy Loftus has been selected as the new county director for the Aiken DJJ office.

Anna Melvin has been hired as the new County Director for the York County office.

Yolanda Porras has been selected as the new campus nurse for the John G. Richards Campus on BRRC.

Sharonda Sutton has been appointed as the new facility administrator for the Midlands Evaluation Center.

Carrice Watkins has been selected as the new county director for the Williamsburg County office.

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